

THE POCAHONTAS CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

April, 2020



NOTE: The April Meeting has been canceled due to the coronavirus epidemic.

President's Message

Hello all,

Well, what a crazy month March has been, right? I hope this newsletter finds you all well, healthy and in good spirits. Who would have thought that in 4 short weeks our country and our world would be in the midst of a pandemic. As you may suspect, we will not be having our April meeting. We were leaning that way in Mid-March and therefore did not do our normal news release. That decision was solidified by the fact that Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens is now closed through 4/30. Joey Thompson, who was to be our speaker, has been penciled into one of our fall meetings.

Breaking news: While I am typing this, out of my window I see a yellow Eastern Swallowtail, first of the season for me. I grabbed my phone and chased it around the garden....they are faster than one would think....it visited my violets and redbud, but I could only snap a pic on the flowering almond (nonnative I know but my grandmothers and it reminds me of chenille bedspreads).

Now, back to the regular Presidents message. At this point in time, we do not have any walks scheduled and do not see us planning any this spring. I had been looking forward to leading a walk to see the pink lady slippers at Dorey Park in mid to late April, but am going to err on the side of caution. That being said, I have included 2 aerial pictures of Dorey, in case you want to venture out on your own. The smaller colony is just a short jaunt from the parking area. The first picture shows an X where you would park, a paved parking lot on the left.

The second photo show you take the trail across the road from the parking area. As you enter the wood, the path forks, go to the right. As you follow that along, pay attention to the area on your left, under the pines. I drew blue squiggles. There are normally several large clump throughout that area. If you opt to go one evening or weekend, feel free to give me a call, 804-335-5866. I don't live far, I would be glad to meet you there and show you in person, from 6 feet away of course.

Below are some photos of what is going on in my garden. First up are perennials, just starting to leaf up and out. Can you guess them? Answers on next page. Next are leftover stalks from last year's blooms. I leave them over winter, as a food source for birds and nesting site for native bees and insects. Can you guess them? Answers on next page.



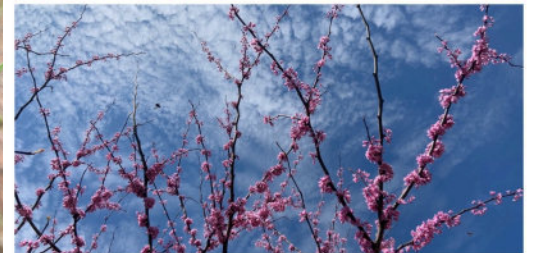
Here are some things in bloom...
 My vines, 2 different honeysuckle and carolina jessamine.
 Bluebells, a springtime favorite
 Early saxifrage, columbine, and violets
 galore



Redbud loved by bees and lovely against the blue sky
 Last but not least, carolina allspice, *calycanthus floridus*.
 The scent of it on a warm day is divine and unique.



I hope these have made you smile.
 Answers to perennials, top left corner, clockwise,
 Agastache, Baptisia stalks, lyre leaf sage, mountain
 mint, bee balm. Last year's stalks, large photo is
 rudbeckia trifoliolate, New York Ironweed and



Mountain Mint.

The Pocahontas Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

serves the counties of Amelia, Charles City, Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, King William, New Kent, Powhatan, Prince George and the cities of Ashland, Hopewell, Colonial Heights, Petersburg, and Richmond. It meets the first Thursday of September through April at 7:00 PM in the Education and Library Complex of the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, unless otherwise stated.

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One more thing, while I don't know all of you personally, we have over 140 members, but I would like to offer assistance during these crazy times. My sons are close by, but I now that is not true for everyone. If you need groceries picked up or prescriptions etc and are unable to do it yourself, feel free to call me. 804-335-5866. I do work from home full time, but I am free in the evenings and weekends and would be glad to help out. We are a community of plant lovers and we need to stick together in these trying times.

Stay safe and be blessed,
 Leslie

Low Line Walk

by Leslie Allanson

Inspired by the presentation at our last meeting by Capital Trees on the Lowline Garden, when my sister (she lives next door and works at home full time too) asked one weekend "do you want to go do something, anything?" I said sure, let's go Great Ship Lock park and do the Lowline walk. So we did. There were some others enjoying the park and Capital Trail, but everyone seemed to be mindful of "social distancing" There was not much in full bloom, but it was still lovely and let you see the "bones" of the garden. It was a great mixture of urban/industrial versus nature/beauty.

The first set of pictures is looking up from under the cherry tree, the signage, and buds of a native azalea. The second from Chappell Island looking back at the city from across the canal, the train trestle, spicebush on island and oakleaf hydrangea leafing out. If you want to learn more about Capital Tree, visit their website , <https://capitaltrees.org> I urge you to put this park and green space on your list of “places to check out”.



Spring plants in my yard.

by Richard Moss

L to R, top to bottom: Lots of these very blue bluets (*Houstonia pusilla*) were in a nearby cemetery. In my yard were: the quaker lady bluets (*Houstonia caerulea*); A non-native Indian Strawberry (*Potentilla indica*);



Pussytoes (*Antennaria neglecta*); Red maple (*Acer rubrum*) flowers; Common blue violets (*Viola sororia*); Devils walkingstick (*Aralia spinosa*), and last but not least, Mr. Slick the neighborhood black rat snake re-appeared in the neighbor's azalea bush.